



Testimony Before The Appropriations Committee Public Hearing Regarding The Governor's Proposed  
FY 2016-2017 Biennial Budget

February 27, 2015

Thank you Committee Co-Chair Bye, Committee Co-Chair Walker, and Appropriations Committee Members for the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Eileen McAdoo. I am a resident of Terryville, CT. I am speaking to you today in opposition of the proposed Medicaid reimbursement cuts for most healthcare providers.

I am the Director of Quality Assurance for All About You Collaborative Health Care Services, LLC. Our agency is a Medicare certified home care agency with offices in Torrington, Naugatuck and East Haven. Like all home care agencies, we provide services to the most vulnerable populations in our communities: the elderly, individuals with behavioral health issues and children and adults with complex medical needs. Home care agencies provide skilled services and hands on care as well as care coordination. Our clinicians collaborate with patients, families/caregivers, community support systems and community health care providers to develop plans of care that will keep patients safe at home and assist them in reaching positive health outcomes. They are skilled at risk assessment and symptom recognition. They are able to detect when patients are experiencing a change in condition or a barrier that may require an adjustment to the established plan of care. Our home care agency has been dedicated to providing extended care nursing in the home for pediatric and adult patients with complex medical needs that often require high technology supports such as ventilators. We experience first hand the barriers, challenges and financial constraints that these individuals and their families/caregivers are faced with. These families are determined and dedicated to caring for their loved ones. Having the support of home care services makes it possible for these families to keep their loved ones safely at home and receiving the care they require.

I understand how difficult it is to care for a disabled family member as I am a parent of child with disabilities. My daughter has complex medical issues and requires 24/7 care and supervision. Through the years, my husband and I have worked relentlessly to obtain the necessary medical and support services our daughter requires in order to manage her disease and to provide her with every advantage possible. Through collaboration with her healthcare team and school system, we have been able to identify her needs and gear her treatment. This has included specialized school programming, caregiver support through both DDS and private pay funding, outpatient physical therapy and occupational therapy through

home care. With home based occupational therapy, our daughter has demonstrated increased independence with activities of daily living and an increased ability to generalize life skills to the home setting. We have learned how to use sensory integration to re-direct her so she experiences success instead of frustration. She continues to work hard to overcome her challenges and has made tremendous gains. She amazes and inspires us. As working parents, we have been able to obtain our daughter's health care and required services through private insurance and by paying out of pocket. With prior State budget cuts, we unfortunately lost case management services through DDS. In the upcoming years, my daughter will age out of our insurance. She is now eighteen years old and we are preparing to enroll her in the Medicaid Health Insurance Program. Her future and our ability to continue to care for her in the home will be reliant on services provided through Medicaid and the Department of Developmental Services. Given the proposed cuts to Medicaid, my husband and I are concerned about our daughter's future and our ability to obtain the medical care and other support services that are so essential to her well being; the services we have worked so hard to obtain for her. As we ourselves get older, we need to feel confident that her needs will continue to be met, that she will have access to adult programs that will allow her to be among her peers and a contributing member of her community, and that the much needed supports through home care will be available to her.

Our story is not unique. There are so many families like mine who are caring for their loved ones at home. Being fully responsible for the care of a disabled family member is a 24/7 commitment with no definitive endpoint. Our lives revolve around their care. We work hard to balance this care with the needs of our other children, our jobs and our other responsibilities and commitments. When we need assistance in the home, care providers must possess the appropriate level of skill to care for these individuals with complex needs. Having the support of home care services is tremendously needed. However, the ability for home care agencies to continue to provide critical home based supports to the most vulnerable populations in our communities will be compromised if the proposed Medicaid reimbursement cuts to health care providers go through. I ask you to support our vulnerable populations and home care agencies by opposing the proposed Medicaid reimbursement cuts to health care providers. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Eileen McAdoo, RN, MSN, COS-C